

NHLBI Ideation (Lean UX)

The Challenge

NHLBI wants to build a streamlined system that will trace a grant from when it's just an idea all the way to funding. We were tasked with the beginning of this process. We wanted to design the MVP (minimum viable product) for an app that would follow an idea to an initiative. So our task was to create an app that

1. Helps scientists collaborate in development of an idea
2. Gives the ability to follow all changes made to an idea
3. Enables scientists to do a landscape analysis to see where there may be funding for similar projects
4. Enables scientists to search for and save publications related the idea

Lean UX

They decided to use a Lean process to do this. So we started with the minimum necessities for the project and created a list of epics to guide the design.

Ideation Epics	
Epic	Description
My NHLBI Widgets	Develop widgets to access and manage ideas - My Ideas - List of ideas created and managed by the user. Add notification indicators - My Reading List - list of publications, research article tagged with my ideas
My Ideas	Provides ability to create and manage ideas - Create Idea - allows user to enter a new idea - Idea list - provides list of ideas created by the user - Edit/View/Delete Idea - Provide CRUD operations for the ideas - Alerts/Notifications - Provides ability to get notifications on user comments, peer reviews, publications - Manage Contributors - Add/delete contributors for an idea. This list can be suggested by the tool based on the articles/publications tagged as well as the other idea worked by program staff
Idea Management	Identify and enter attributes associated to an idea - User entry form to create/edit idea - Read-only form for contributors to review idea - Ability to share the idea with others - Tag publications, grants, clinical trials, research papers, URL's and documents to the idea - Tag results from various searches like portfolio/landscape analysis, web search, internal document repositories - Upload collaboration files to sharepoint and attach the link to the idea - Archive Idea and make it available for future references
Idea Collaboration	Collaborate with others to discuss and develop the idea - Provide ability to review and comment on the idea - Integrate with lync to provide easy access to contact the person - Show running list of comments on an Idea wall - Invite external users to participate and provide feedback
Idea Search	Provide tools to search various sources and tag the results to an idea - Search for other ideas in the system and link them - Search for grants or clinical studies related to this idea - Search for publications in Pubmed for this idea - Link to advanced search capabilities like landscape analysis, portfolio analysis and NHLBI/US funding
Advanced Idea Collaboration	Expand the collaboration options to include wider audience - Crowdsourcing for feedback among scientific community (uber) - Create and manage an idea forum - Package material for various presentations including both internal and external. Internal could be staff meetings and external could be conferences
Initiative Development Integration	Integrate with initiative development - Provide mechanism for approval of ideas (workflow) - Integrate with initiative development system to initiate a new initiative for the idea

For user testing we wanted to test with scientists that would be using the app so we organized working groups and I designed a low fidelity prototype using *Sketch* and *InVision*. The decision to use such a low-fidelity model was that we wanted the group to focus on the functionality rather than the design itself.

The prototype can be viewed here:

<https://invis.io/Q49WCGTMY>